

IMMIGRATION GLOSSARY

These terms are used in the Abstract.

Refugee - A person who, while outside the US, has been able to establish to the satisfaction of the US government, that s/he will be in grave danger of persecution or death if s/he returns to his or her homeland on account of ethnicity, religion, or political opinion. Refugees are approved for resettlement in the US before arrival.

Asylee - A person who has been granted protective status ("asylum") in the US, based on the presumption that s/he – like a refugee – likely will be in grave danger of persecution or death if s/he returns to his or her homeland on account of ethnicity, religion, or political opinion. Asylees are approved for resettlement in the US after arrival.

Cash Assistance – Newly arrived refugees and asylees are eligible for federally-funded and state-administered cash assistance for up to eight months after arrival. These clients must be actively working or seeking work while on cash assistance, unless they are exempted (usually because of age or incapacity.)

Country of Origin – The original home country of the refugee or asylee. The country they left because of imminent danger.

Employment Services – Most refugees and asylees who accept cash assistance are required to be actively looking for work. Refugees and asylees who are not on cash assistance may still qualify for assistance in finding jobs for up to five years after arrival or grant of asylum. Employment services helps both kinds of clients.

ESL /VESL (English as a Second Language / Vocational English as a Second Language) – Refugees and asylees are eligible for English language training to help them resettle quicker. Some may learn English as applied to the workplace (Vocational English.)

PPP (Public Private Partnership) – A federally funded initiative, in which states enter into partnership with local resettlement agencies to provide cash assistance, language training and employment services. Program objectives are to create a more effective resettlement program while maintaining state responsibility for policy and administrative oversight. Maryland administers its PPP through two centers: the Baltimore Resettlement Center, in Highlandtown, and the Suburban Washington Resettlement Center, in Silver Spring.

Resettlement Agency – A private organization that assists refugees in relocating to the US through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of State.